

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01098 112009Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 /016 W

-----112056Z 026029 /66

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1098

FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EAID, MR

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF INTERNAL TRANSPORT CAPACITY IN MAURITANIA

REF: STATE 103849

1. ISSUE OF DIVERSION OF GIRM EMERGENCY RELIEF FLEET VEHICLES TO MILITARY USE IS SOMEWHAT MUTE ISSUE AT PRESENT SINCE FEW FOOD TRUCKS ARE PRESENTLY OPERABLE. MULTI-DONOR MISSION FOUND DURING APRIL VISIT TO TRUCK REPAIR FACILITY THAT ONLY 58 OUT OF MORE THAN 300 TRUCKS IN THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FLEET WERE CONSIDERED ECONOMICALLY REPAIRABLE AND ONLY A FEW WERE IN RUNNING ORDER. TEAM RECOMMENDED, IN PRELIMINARY REPORT, FUNDING FOR NECESSARY PARTS TO PUT FLEET INTO OPERATION. LACK OF TRANSPORT CAPABILITY, PLUS LACK OF EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION WITHIN MAURITANIAN BUREAUCRACY, HAS SO FAR RESULTED IN LIMITED MOVEMENT OF CURRENT STOCK OF FOODSTUFFS. LIMITED COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT HAD BEEN USED IN PAST WEEKS ALTHOUGH MAJOR PROBLEM WAS THAT UNTIL LAST WEEK NECESSARY ORDERS HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN TO MOVE FOOD. IN PAST FEW DAYS, GIRM HAS BEGUN HAULING FOOD FROM NOUAKCHOTT WHARF USING FOOD FLEET VEHICLES.

2. WHILE DURING LATE 1975 AND EARLY 1976 SOME FOOD TRUCKS WERE DIVERTED TO MILITARY PURPOSES, THIS WAS ONLY SMALL PORTION OF TOTAL FLEET AND ONCE ADDITIONAL MILITARY

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VEHICLES WERE BOUGHT BY GIRM, DIVERTED FOOD TRUCKS WERE RETURNED TO NORMAL DUTY.

3. GIRM MILITARY HAS MADE LARGE PURCHASES OF DESERT WORTHY VEHICLES IN PAST MONTHS AND DRASTIC INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE ANY DIVERSION OF CIVILIAN TRUCKS WOULD BE NEEDED.

4. THE PRIMARY PROBLEM FOR FOOD HAULING WOULD NOT BE SO MUCH POSSIBILITY OF DIVERSION BUT LACK OF TRUCKS. IN EVENT SIGNIFICANT FOOD RELIEF EFFORT WERE TO BE MOUNTED, IT COULD BE MADE ONLY BY USING REPAIRED MAURITANIAN RELIEF FLEET, HIRING COMMERCIAL VEHICLES OR DIVERTING VEHICLES FROM MILITARY FLEET. COST TO REPAIR FOOD FLEET AND USE OF PRIVATE TRUCKERS ARE BOTH EXPENSIVE. MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLY LESS FUNDS FOR FOOD RELIEF OPERATION THAN IN PAST. MOREOVER, WITH LARGE QUANTITY OF FOOD ALREADY BACKED UP AT NOUAKCHOTT WHARF AND ROSSO, PLUS SCHEDULED PIPELINE ARRIVALS AND LIKELIHOOD THAT RAINY SEASON IN SOUTH WILL BEGIN IN JUNE, FOOD HAULING WILL BE MAJOR PROBLEM. -- WITH OR WITHOUT DIVERSION.

FARLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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